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ABSTRACT

In response to the 1979 gasoline shortage, East Los Angeles College (ELAC) conducted a survey of faculty and staff to determine the primary means of transportation to ELAC, the number of miles which students and faculty commuted, the accessibility of bus lines to student and staff homes, the number of transfers made by those riding the bus to ELAC, the number who would ride a bus if more direct service were available, the interest among students and staff in carpooling, and the number of students who would ride a bicycle to ELAC if more racks and security were provided. Major findings indicate that, on the average, staff members traveled 11.4 miles to ELAC while students traveled only 4.9 miles. Personally owned cars were the most popular means of transportation for 67.2% of the students and 89.9% of the staff, followed by bus lines, walking, and car pooling. Approximately 80% of both groups indicated that they would ride a bus if more direct service were available, and 47.7% of the students and 24.4% of the staff said that they would ride bicycles if racks and security were available. More staff (64.5%) than students (46.9%) expressed an interest in carpooling. The study report examines the percentage of respondents living within area zip code tracts and enumerates the bus lines nearest the homes of faculty and staff. Summary conclusions and the questionnaires are included. (JP)

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EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

RESEARCH REPORT

RESEARCH REPORT 80-2

EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE
STUDENT AND STAFF TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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Steven Mark Sachs,
Coordinator of Research and Evaluation

April, 1980

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RESEARCH REPORT 80-2

EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

STUDENT AND STAFF TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

PURPOSE

In May of 1979, the Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor's Committee on Transportation was formed to address the problems and solutions related to the "gas crisis." As part of East Los Angeles College's actions at the local level, then Coordinator of Research and Evaluation Ernesto Ballesteros generated and implemented a campuswide Transportation Survey. The results of the Survey, as reported here, are provided to assist in the planning of appropriate parking facilities and other measures tailored to ameliorate the "gas crisis" impact on the College.

METHOD

Near the end of the Spring, 1979 Semester, the "ELAC Student Transportation Questionnaire" and "Transportation Questionnaire" (the latter for both classified and certificated staff) were distributed to ELAC personnel and attenders. Student responses were obtained by requesting selected instructors to have some or all of their class sections fill out the questionnaires.

Responses were hand-tabulated, keypunched, and subsequently computer-analyzed by the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Programming was done by both Mr. Ballesteros and this paper's author.

RESULTS

The following tables depict student and staff responses to all questionnaire items available.

1. PRIMARY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO ELAC

MEANS	STUDENTS	STAFF
Own Car	67.2	89.8
Car Pool	4.4	1.2
Bus	18.6	4.7
Walk	5.7	1.8
Bicycle	2.4	0.6
Motorcycle	1.7	1.2

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2. NUMBER OF MILES PERSON LIVES FROM ELAC

MILES	STUDENTS	STAFF
1	9.4	5.0
2	13.9	2.0
3	12.7	5.0
4	7.1	4.0
5	16.9	5.0
6-10	26.2	19.0
11-15	8.9	20.0
16-20	2.2	16.0
21+	2.7	21.0

	STUDENTS	STAFF
MEAN =	6.7	13.8
MEDIAN =	4.9	11.4

(Both of the above number sets are averages.)

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3. SELECTED PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS/STAFF LIVING WITHIN NEARBY COMMUNITIES

Community/Zip	STUDENTS	STAFF
Monterey Park (91754)	16.8	12.0
East L. A. (90022)	13.0	2.0
Hazard (90063)	12.6	1.0
Montebello (90640)	7.7	6.0
Boyle Heights (90033)	7.0	1.0
El Sereno (90032)	6.3	2.0

(2, continued)

Community/Zip	STUDENTS	STAFF
East L.A. (90023)	5.6	0.0
Rosemead (9177)	3.5	2.0
Alhambra (91801)	3.2	4.0
South Alhambra (91803)	3.2	1.0

4. BUS LINE STOPPING NEAR HOME

BUS LINE	STUDENTS	STAFF	(STUDENTS ONLY: LINE STOPPING NEAR HOME)
R.T.D.	61.6	43.9	(56.3)
Montebello	9.5	9.6	(5.5)
Don't know	28.7	46.5	(38.3)

5. BUS LINES NEAREST HOMES OF AT LEAST 3% OF STUDENTS OR STAFF

LINE	STUDENTS	STAFF
26	44.0	11.0
35	3.0	5.0
56	?	5.0
75	?	5.0
420	19.4	16.0
423	9.8	8.0
480	?	5.0
820	?	5.0
990	?	8.0

6. NUMBER OF TRANSFERS MADE ON BUS PASSING NEAR HOME

TRANSFERS	STUDENTS	STAFF
0	3.0	46.2
1	57.6	34.6
2	31.8	9.6
3+	6.0	9.6

7. TRAVEL TIME FROM HOME TO ELAC

MINUTES	STUDENTS	STAFF
1-10	36.5	26.0
11-20	29.2	21.0
21-30	12.9	18.0
31-40	5.0	9.0
41-50	6.1	5.0
51-60	6.7	10.0
61+	3.3	11.0

/

	STUDENTS	STAFF
Mean Minutes	23.1	34.3
Median Minutes	15.5	29.5

8. FIRM ANSWER TO "WOULD YOU RIDE A BUS IF MORE DIRECT SERVICE WERE AVAILABLE?"

REPLY	STUDENTS	STAFF
Yes	84.3	79.8
No	15.7	20.2

9. WOULD PERSON RIDE BIKE TO ELAC IF MORE RACKS AND SECURITY? (FIRM ANSWERS ONLY)

REPLY	STUDENTS	STAFF
Yes	47.0	24.4
No	53.0	75.6

10. IF DON'T WANT TO RIDE A BUS, INTERESTED IN CARPOOLING?

REPLY	STUDENTS	STAFF
Yes	46.9	64.5
No	53.1	35.5

11. STUDENTS ONLY: HAVE YOU MISSED CLASSES AS A RESULT OF THE GAS SHORTAGE?

    YES: 30.8%

    NO: 69.2%

12. STUDENTS ONLY: WOULD RIDE BIKE TO BOTH ELAC AND WORK IF SECURITY AT WORK

    YES: 44.6%

    NO: 55.4%

13. STAFF ONLY: IF LIVE NEAR FREEWAY, INTERESTED IN TAKING A "FREEWAY BUS" STOPPING AT MAJOR OFFRAMPS?

    YES: 33.1

    NO: 36.0

    ?: 30.9

14. STAFF ONLY: EVEN IF NO GAS SHORTAGE, WOULD RIDE BUS IF MORE ADEQUATE SERVICE?

    YES: 60.1

    NO: 18.9

    ?: 20.9

15. STAFF ONLY: BREAKDOWN OF WILLINGNESS TO RIDE BUS IF (1) MORE DIRECT, OR (2) STOPPED AT MAJOR OFFRAMPS BY CURRENT TRANSPORTATION MODE

CURRENT MODE	WOULD RIDE IF MORE DIRECT	WOULD RIDE IF STOPPED AT MAJOR RAMPS
Own Car	58.5	32.3
Car Pool	100.0	50.0

STUDENT WRITE-IN SUGGESTIONS FOR RESOLVING EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

SUGGESTIONS	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
DIRECT BUS LINES	35
CARPOOL	32
RIDE BICYCLE	26
BETTER BUS SCHEDULING	24
BETTER PARKING FACILITIES - CARS, BICYCLES, MOTORCYCLES	17
MORE SECURITY IN PARKING AREAS - CARS, BICYCLES	14
SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION	14
MORE BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLE RACKS	10
CENTRALLY LOCATED TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION BOOTHS	8
SPECIAL BUS RATES FOR STUDENTS/EMPLOYEES	7
FLEXIBLE/BETTER CLASS SCHEDULING	6
WALK	6
RECOGNIZED BICYCLE PATH THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY	5
EXPRESS BUS/MONO-RAIL	4
GOVERNMENT PRESSURE	4
ON-CAMPUS GAS STATION	4
MORE BUS ROUTES	4
MORE BICYCLE RAMPS	3
MORE DECENT GAS PRICES	3
MOVE CLOSER	3
STOP CHARGING FOR PARKING	3

STAFF WRITE-IN SUGGESTIONS FOR RESOLVING EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

SUGGESTIONS	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
CARPOOL	12
4-DAY WORK WEEK	8
EXPRESS BUSES	6
FREEWAY BUS	4
WORK AT SCHOOL CLOSER TO HOME	4
LESS WASTE - MOTOR BOATS, LARGE CARS	2
WALK	2

DISCUSSION/EPITOMIZATION

Most students and staff members use their own cars for transportation to and from the ELAC campus. On the average, staff members travel about six miles further than students to get to the campus (median/average distances are staff=11.4, student=4.9).

More students and staff members come from Monterey Park than from any other area; East L.A., Hazard, and Montebello are additional large student providers, while the secondary providing areas for staff members are Montebello and Alhambra.

The Southern California Rapid Transit District ("RTD") services most dense student areas and many heavy staff areas, with lines 26 and 420 most prominently used.

Those staff members taking buses generally take more direct routes than do students, as evidenced by smaller numbers of transfers enroute. About 80% of both students and staff with a firm opinion felt that they would make use of bus service if a more direct route (fewer transfers) were available.

Staff members, taking an average of 34.3 minutes to get to the campus, travel about 11 minutes more than do students (average = 23.1 minutes); on the whole larger numbers of staff members travel for longer lengths of time than do students.

Almost half of the students with firm opinions (47%) and about a quarter of staff with firm opinions (24.4%) would ride a bicycle to campus if more bike

racks and security were to be provided.

Interest in carpooling among non-bus-riders is higher among the staff (64.5%) than among the students (46.9%). This may reflect larger numbers of staff members driving their own cars to the campus each day.

The gas shortage seems to have had a substantial impact on student attendance, as evidenced by 30.8% of the students reporting having missed classes as a result of that shortage.

Since 44.6% of student respondents said that they would ride a bicycle to work as well as to campus if they had bike securtiy at work, a campaign to get employers to provide such bicycle security would probably be appropriate.

Fully a third of staff respondents living near freeways would be willing to take freeway buses stopping at nearby offramps. This suggests that adding more stops to freeway buses could substantially decrease freeway congestion.

In spite of the gas shortage, 60% of staff respondents would still consider riding the bus if the service were more adequate.

Write-in responses of the staff and students basically honed in on carpooling and the creation of more direct R.T.D. bus routes to the campus. Student concerns also ran high in the area of parking facilities and appropriate security for those areas.

In overview, then, decreased fuel use and improvement of freeway and parking

lot congestion may be realized by:

A) increasing the places where "Freeway Flyer" buses stop enroute:

B) providing more lockable bicycle racks on campus;

C) inducing student employers to install secure bike racks;

D) putting special effort into streamlining RTD routes 26 and 420

E) emphasizing an RTD/Montebello grid system which decreases the number of bus transfers necessary to reach the campus; and

F) reinstituting efforts to coordinate carpooling, especially among staff members.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Mark Sachs
Coordinator of Research and Evaluation

APPENDIX: STAFF AND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONNAIRE INSTRUMENTS

ELAC STUDENT TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Student: The following questions are asked of you in order to help us try to resolve transportation problems you may have, especially in light of the gasoline shortage. Please answer to the best of your ability. The questionnaire is anonymous. Thank you.

1. DURING WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING HOURS DO (WILL) YOU HAVE CLASSES?
__8:00 a.m. __4-7 p.m. __None of
__9:00 a.m. __7-10 p.m. these

2. WHAT HOURS DO (WILL) YOU SPEND AT ELAC?
__a.m. to __a.m. / __a.m. to __p.m.
__p.m. to __p.m.

3. HAVE YOU MISSED CLASSES AS A RESULT OF THE GAS SHORTAGE? ( ) YES ( ) NO

4. WHAT IS (WOULD BE) YOUR PRIMARY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO ELAC? (CHECK ONE)
__ own car __ walk
__ car pool __ bicycle
__ bus __ motorcycle

5. HOW MANY MILES DO YOU LIVE FROM ELAC?
Approximately ___ miles

6. IN WHICH CITY/COMMUNITY DO YOU LIVE?

_____ 9_____
city/community zip code

7a. WHAT BUS LINE STOPS NEAR YOUR HOME (RTD, MONTEBELLO, ETC.)?

_____ ( ) Don't Know

7b. IF A BUS FROM A STOP NEAR YOUR HOME PRESENTLY COMES TOWARD ELAC, WHAT IS ITS NUMBER?
_____ ( ) Don't Know
number

7c. IF YOU PRESENTLY RIDE THAT BUS, DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE TRANSFERS?
( ) Yes ( ) No

IF YES, HOW MANY TRANSFERS DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE?
_____Transfers

HOW LONG IS THE TRIP FROM YOUR HOME TO ELAC?
_____Minutes

8. IF YOU PRESENTLY DON'T RIDE A BUS TO OR FROM HOME BECAUSE OF TRANSFERS, WOULD YOU RIDE THE BUS IF A MORE DIRECT LINE WERE AVAILABLE?
( ) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not Applicable

9. IF YOU PREFER NOT TO RIDE A BUS, WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN CAR POOLING?

( ) YES ( ) No

10. IF MORE PEOPLE RODE BICYCLES TO SCHOOL, ELAC COULD PROVIDE MORE BIKE RACKS AND SECURITY. WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN RIDING A BIKE TO ELAC?
( ) Yes ( ) No

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR RESOLVING THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM TO ELAC? IF SO, PLEASE EXPLAIN:

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING ONLY IF YOU WORK AND IF THE EMPLOYMENT IS OFF-CAMPUS

11. IN WHICH CITY/COMMUNITY IS YOUR WORKPLACE?

_____ 9_____
City/community zip code

12a. WHAT BUS LINE STOPS NEAR YOUR WORKPLACE? (RTD, MONTEBELLO, ETC.)?

_____ ( ) Don't know

12b. IF A BUS FROM A STOP NEAR YOUR WORKPLACE PRESENTLY COMES TOWARD ELAC, WHAT IS ITS NUMBER?
_____ ( ) Don't know

12c. IF YOU PRESENTLY RIDE THAT BUS, DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE TRANSFERS? ( )yes ( ) no

IF YES, HOW MANY TRANSFERS DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE? _____Transfers

HOW LONG IS THE TRIP FROM YOUR WORKPLACE TO ELAC? _____Minutes

13. WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN CAR POOLING TO WORK? ( ) yes ( ) no

14. WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO RIDE A BIKE TO WORK AND SAFELY PARK IT? ( ) YES ( ) NO
IF YES, WOULD YOU RIDE A BIKE TO BOTH ELAC AND WORK? ( ) yes ( ) no

Dear ELAC Staff Member: The following questions are asked of you in order to help us try to resolve transportation problems you may have, especially in light of the gasoline shortage. Please answer to the best of your ability. The questionnaire is anonymous. Thank you.

1. WHAT HOURS DO YOU GENERALLY SPEND AT ELAC?
   __:__(a.m./p.m.) to __:__(a.m./p.m.);
   __:__(a.m./p.m.) to __:__(a.m./p.m.)

2. WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO ELAC? (CHECK ONE)
   __own car __walk
   __car pool __bicycle
   __bus __motorcycle

3. HOW MANY MILES DO YOU LIVE FROM ELAC?
   approximately _ _miles

4. IN WHICH CITY/COMMUNITY DO YOU LIVE?
   _____ 9_ _ _ _
   city/community zip code

5. WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPAL CROSS STREETS NEAREST TO YOUR HOME?
   _____ & _____
   street/ave. street/ave.

6. IF YOU LIVE NEAR A FREEWAY, WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN TAKING A "FREEWAY BUS" THAT STOPPED AT MAIN OFF-RAMPS?
   ( ) YES ( ) NO ( ) DON'T KNOW

7. WHAT FREEWAY OFF-RAMP IS CLOSEST TO YOUR HOME?
   _____
   name of street/ave. of off-ramp

8. WHAT BUS LINE STOPS NEAR YOUR HOME (RTD, MONTEBELLO, ETC.)?
   _____ ( ) DON'T KNOW

9. IF A BUS FROM A STOP NEAR YOUR HOME PRESENTLY COMES TOWARD ELAC, WHAT IS ITS NUMBER? _____( ) DON'T KNOW
   number

10. IF YOU PRESENTLY RIDE THAT BUS, DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE TRANSFERS?
    ( ) YES ( ) NO

10a. IF YES, HOW MANY TRANSFERS DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE? _____transfers

10b. HOW LONG IS THE TRIP FROM YOUR HOME TO ELAC? _____minutes

11. IF YOU PRESENTLY DON'T RIDE A BUS TO OR FROM HOME BECAUSE OF TRANSFERS, WOULD YOU RIDE THE BUS IF A MORE DIRECT LINE WERE AVAILABLE?
    ( ) YES ( ) NO ( ) DON'T KNOW

12. IF A MORE ADEQUATE BUS SERVICE WERE AVAILABLE, WOULD YOU RIDE THE BUS TO ELAC IN THE ABSENCE OF THE GAS SHORTAGE?
    ( ) YES ( ) NO ( ) DON'T KNOW

13. IF YOU PREFER NOT TO RIDE A BUS, WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN CAR POOLING? ( ) YES ( ) NO

14. IF MORE PEOPLE RODE BICYCLES TO SCHOOL, ELAC COULD PROVIDE MORE BIKE RACKS AND SECURITY. WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN RIDING A BIKE TO ELAC UNDER THESE CONDITIONS?
    ( ) YES ( ) NO ( ) DON'T KNOW

15. DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR RESOLVING THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM TO ELAC? IF SO, PLEASE EXPLAIN:
    _____
    _____
    _____

16. YOU ARE: ( )CLASSIFIED( )CERTIFICATED

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